

A Comprehensive Review and Analysis of Pune: Queen of the Deccan - An Exploration of Urban Transformation

Book Details: Pune: Queen of the Deccan

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1st January 2000, Elephant Design Pvt. Ltd., Hardcover 304 pages

ISBN - 10: 8187693002

ISBN - 13: 978 - 8187693000

Diddee, J., & Gupta, S. (2000). *Pune: Queen of the Deccan*. Elephant Design Pvt. Ltd.

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Abstract: *'Pune: Queen of the Deccan' is a prodigious book, accoladed by many, including architects, urban designers, planners, historians and citizens at large, as a piece of work which is by far the only one which gives a 'satisfactory' account of the city's urban history. The authors Dr. Jaymala Diddee and late Dr. Samita Gupta attempt to give the readers an insight into how Pune as a city underwent numerous cultural and morphological transformations throughout its history to become the city of the modern day. Amidst weaving a timeline of the history of Pune city, the authors take readers on an illustrative journey that, without doubt, proves the authenticity of their extensive research. Nevertheless, this book is an outcome of a research project sponsored by Bajaj Auto Ltd., Forbes Marshall Ltd. and Kirloskar Group of companies, designed and first published by Elephant Design Pvt. Ltd. in the year 2000. The authors discovered that although there were scholarly works dealing with "specific periods or aspects of the city from the point of view of a historian, a geographer or even a social scientist" there was no documentation of the multifaceted story of the city of Pune's evolution from being small village to becoming one of India's 'gateway cities' (Diddee & Gupta, 2000). They felt the need for a book that would "construct Pune's urban personality, as it evolved and changed through time and in space". This book stitches together some earmarking events through its evolution, touching upon Pune's modern - day urban form.*

Keywords: Pune, Urban History, Morphological transformations, Contemporary urban form, Metropolis

1. Synopsis

The book is divided in six chapters viz. 'The Core', 'The Peshwai', 'City of Peths', 'The Battle for the City', 'The Cantonment', 'The Colonial City' and 'Towards a Metropolis'. The journey of Pune towards attaining its current metamorphic form has been well explained through this work.

The Pune city flanked by a diffident hinterland with limited locational advantages wasn't expected enough to grow into a metropolis. Pune traces itself in the fables of this location albeit its origins still remain incomprehensible. As the history would tell it, the administrators whole ruled out of this city left a deep impact on its form, configuration, architecture, knowledge base, culture, traditions and a host of its functions. For example, the *Kasbapeth* (one of the many sectors in the city as laid down by the 'Peshwas' during their rule), still flashes evidences of a 'garrison town' under the Islamic regime and that of a 'bazaar (market)' under the Peshwas (*The 'Peshwa', was the title conferred to the appointed prime minister of the Maratha Empire of the Indian subcontinent*). The Peshwas, belonged to the 'Bhat' family and served as ministers to the *Chhatrapati* (the Maratha Kings). They eventually became the 'de facto' leaders of the Maratha (*Native dominant community in the Maharashtra Region of India, referring to the Maratha*

empire here) Coalition, while the *Chhatrapati* remained nominal rulers.

The *Marathas* emerged as an important provincial power and later the Peshwas made Pune their capital. Pune's growth in the eighteenth century is seen to coincide with the overall trend of urbanization in India in that period. The city's fate faced a turn when the Battle of *Khadki* (*presently a locality of cantonment zone in Pune*) was won by the British in 1818. A second sudden urban phase started when it faced sudden disturbances in its growth, followed by half a century of 'de - urbanization'. A 'dual' urban form developed, due to the military cantonment along the innate city, triggering a 'geographical and cultural divide', which is still evident. Eventually, an entirely different colonial landscape accompanied the traditional grid – designed *peths* (*wards or sectors*), known for their skylines of temples and shrines, and *Wadas* (*traditionally built native courtyard houses*), all within one perspective. As Pune's vernacular landscape metamorphosed, manoeuvring through a caste - based rigid social structure, the blended Anglo - Indian landscape in the *Poona camp* (*the cantonment zone, characterized by Anglo - Indian built form*) played a major role in shaping Pune's urban form alongside of the eighteen *peths* in it.

Volume 12 Issue 7, July 2023

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Pune's location in the then Bombay's and presently Mumbai's context wasn't considered as beneficial for its economic development initially. However, as the commerce, trade and industry were entirely focused in the port city of Bombay, Pune had the disadvantage of losing on the same. However, in 1960, the old Bombay state was bifurcated. Nevertheless parallelly, Bombay got too 'saturated' for any additional growth. This changed the scenario and Pune's proximity to Bombay in turn became rather advantageous for directing more industries to Pune. Also, the civic status upgraded to a Municipal Corporation, giving a major boost to improve the infrastructure further. This attracted a whole lot of migrants for better economic opportunities. Two events in 1960's changed the course of Pune's growth. The establishment of the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) township of Pimpri - Chinchwad, Pune's own satellite town and also the floods that inundated the city in 1961 and triggered the migrants to settle away from the river. The flood affected societies started settling away from the river, while new contours of an industrial landscape were being engraved. In 1980's the wide employment base flocked migrants from everywhere. The suburban neighbourhoods grew into unchecked sprawls. Also, with planning interventions, growth got directed along the major transportation corridors that lead to peripheral 'ribbon' growth pattern, further leading to disordered commuting and traffic congestion.

The old core started experiencing urban involution with increased demand for urban space. Urban renewal was occurring through city and the traditional residences, the *Wadas*, were getting wiped off to demolition for newer buildings. Pune altered to an industrial city with a cosmopolitan demographics and the setting changed from serene to buoyant. Nevertheless, haphazard growth was controlled through mechanisms of Floor Space Index (FSI) rules to a certain extent. There has been only limited success in the effectiveness of the Town Planning (TP) schemes and Development Plans (DP) to organize the disorderly development. According to the authors, it became an unescapable reality that inward migration outgrew the infrastructure. The fact, that the city required low - income migrants was at odds with the planning that failed to provide them with good civic amenities. This compelled a mass of the immigrants to live in deficient localities. The authors have emphasised the need to review this situation in order to decide the future direction of development.

In pursuit of explaining the geography of the city, the authors indicate that the Maharashtra plateau region is categorised as the '*desh (central plateau)*'; whereas the '*Maval (western Plateau)*' region, lies in the rain - shadow zone of the 'Sahyadri' mountains. Pune, was known to have initially nestled to the right of 'Mutha' river forming its western margin in the old days. Later, the settlement spread to the left river bank as well. The rivers 'Mula' and 'Mutha' meet at the *Sangam (literally meaning union)* at the north - east of Pune. There were smaller *Nalas (streams)* in the landscape as well, feeding the rivers of 'Mula - Mutha'.

The east of this settlement was marked by the 'Bhairoba *Nala, (astream)*. The 'Sinhasgad' and the 'Bhuleshwar' hills formed the southern and the south - eastern boundaries of

the city. Three large streams fed water to the expanse in the past viz. 'Manik'*Nala*, 'Nagzari' and the 'Peshwa' *Nala*, which are almost either stagnant or non - existent now. The oldest part of the city was the 'Kasba'*peth (sector)*. The *Kasba*, stretched over the 'Nagzari's' bank and spanned westward towards the right of Mutha.

The authors also give an account of how the city derived its current name. Copper Plate inscriptions from the 'Rashtrakuta' dynasty, dating back to the eighth century have mentions of 'PunakaVishaya'. "In the tenth century, the town is itself was mentioned in records as 'Punaka Wadi'. An inscription found at 'Naneghat' on the way to '*Konkan (western coastal region of the state of Maharashtra)*', indicates that this area was also included within the rule of the great 'Satvahana' Dynasty which dates back to as early as the first century" (Diddee & Gupta, 2000). It is understood that this settlement was known as 'Kasba Pune' right from the thirteenth century when the 'Arabs' ruled here; while the surrounding region of Pune was popular as well.

As far as Pune's geopolitical situation was concerned, the authors deciphered that ancient trade routes passed through Pune via the passes of 'Nane' and 'Bhor' of the 'Sahyadri' ranges. There always was active trade between the *Desh (central plateau region of the state of Maharashtra)* and the *Konkan (western coastal region of the state of Maharashtra)*. Many rock cut temples and caves surround Pune, with the 'Pataleshwar' temple within the city itself, which date back to as early as the eighth century.

During the dynastic period, Pune became part of the 'Nizamshahi' monarchy of Ahmednagar, after splitting up from the 'Bahamani' kingdom. Stronghold locations like '*Kondhana*' (now Sinhasgad fort), Chakan, Shivneri and Purandar were used by local chiefs of the dynasties to administer their lands.

While the city sought its defence behind these mountains and forts, no defence wall was ever constructed to guard it. Kasarli, Kumbharli and Punawadi were three villages which converged gradually to form the town. These places are still evident from the *KasarAli (lane of communities making bangles)*, *Kumbhar Wada (residence of community of potters)* and the *Kasbapeth* today. The temples of *Kedareshwar, Puneshwar, Narayaneswar and Ganpati (Hindu Deities)* marked the boundaries. The old *Punyeshwar* temple is now the *sheikh - salla* tomb after its transformation in the late thirteenth century.

The banks of the Mutha river have no '*ghats*' (*stepped embankment to access the river*) to access it for water. It is believed that original 'nucleus' of the settlement, had turned its back to the river gradually, since the water requirement was being better met through the 'Nagzari' stream to the east. The Mutha river was likely to get flooded during monsoons when no dams were constructed upstream. While the *Kasbapeth* originated even at a point higher than the 'Nagzari', concurrently, another small settlement was likely to have evolved around the 'Nageshwar' temple in the *Somwarpeth* of those times.

Conventionally, the industries associated with noise, smoke, smell and pollution would be located on the peripheries of villages. Consequently, the *Kumbharwada* (potter's colony) with its smoke - belching kilns marked the border on the north - west. Even today the *Kumbharwada* continues to exist and is situated on the lower ground, next to the raised grounds. The settlement was predominantly of rural character than urban, and farmers practised agriculture in the neighbouring fields. It represented the traditional society with its own *watandars* (a title of the Koli caste meaning "landholder Kolis) and *balutedars* (the *Bara Balutedar system was a hereditary system of twelve trades used historically in villages, who got paid for their services under the barter system*). Traditional craftsmen like potters, metal workers and later the paper workers thrived. *Bhois and Kolis* (Artisans and Fishermen) and agricultural communities like *Malis* (gardeners) and *Kunbis* (land tillers) and a few *Brahmin* Households also flank the *peth* areas. According to the authors, the 'untouchable' castes were allotted the north - east of the settlement. "The street and *peth* names of the *Kasba Peth* today - *Bhoi Ali, Kasar Ali, Kagdipura* - preserve the memory of the old settlement pattern" (Diddee & Gupta, 2000). The caste system originated as a hereditary occupation - based system that governed the settlement patterns of towns or villages, eventually degenerated and became a social evil.

The authors have discovered mentions of '*JunaKot*' which meant a wall that fortified the villages. The garrison or the fort area might have acted as another nucleus for development close to the river, with the government offices housed inside the garrison.

The rain shadow area of the '*desh*' made it prone to frequent famines, especially in the end of the fourteenth century and the beginning of the fifteenth century; while drought prone regions saw many times of repopulation and depopulation. The book gives account of the history of Pune in the seventeenth century and its strong link with the '*Bhonsales*' (The royal family of Shivaji Maharaj, the Chhatrapati King of the Marathas). Slowly new satellite settlements started growing around *Kasba* Pune. These emerged as the other *peths*.

The '*Kasba*' grew because of natural population growth and migration of people from the neighbouring areas. The other '*peth*'s faced decay unlike the '*Kasba*' which had potential for self - renewal. The book enlightens the readers on the process for the establishment of newer *peths*. As new sectors were introduced, the original '*Kasba*' combined with them. Physical changes in '*Kasba*' appeared when the '*Peshwas*' made it their capital. The '*JunaKot*' was pulled down and other development and construction activity was encouraged. The Palace of '*Shaniwar Wada*' was constructed in this period. In the eighteenth century when the British took over, the *Kasba* started getting congested and unhealthy. The urban nature was however conserved. Today, the *Kasba* is still vibrant with its adapted city life.

The book provides the layouts of 'India under the Maratha Empire'. Also, of the evolution and the growth of the *peths* is explained with the help of sketches. The *peths* are seen to have grown 'organically' in spite of being founded as a

government initiative. The book also mentions the economic impetus gained by revenue collection and the trade thus developed. The book also describes how the city's water supply system was developed by the *Peshwas*.

It speaks of religious tolerance exhibited towards the migrant population that flocked the city, in several eras on its way towards development. "Immigrant communities were allowed to set up their places of worship. *Bohras* (a merchant community) were welcomed as expert traders and settled along *Bohriali* (lane where the *Bohoris* settled) in *Ravivar Peth* (sector). They were allowed to build their 'Jammatt Khana' which was added to and expanded over the years. The *Gosavis* settled in *Gosavipura* and built temples and 'Matths'. They built a group of stone temples and *Samadhi* and *Somvar Peth*, which added a new type of monument to the city. *Peshwa Sawai Madhav Rao* (1774 - 1795) granted land and money to Catholic Missionaries who built a church and a school (*Ornella's*) and in gratitude accepted the *Peshwas* Flag (*zaripataka*) as their symbol. All *Hindus* and *Muslims* had taboos in their names in different *peths*" (Diddee & Gupta, 2000).

The book presents an entire chapter on the cantonment story. The camp was moved further east, owing to its area requirements of the troops. Communications between *Mumbai* and *Pune* became a necessity to furnish the administrative requirements especially transferring the revenue to *Bombay* and then to *England*. The book explains how the area for the 'Camp' area was decided through land acquisition and compensation. Two villages of *Wanowdi* and *Ghorpadi* between the *ManikNala* and the *BhairobaNala* were designated for encampment. The final boundaries were fixed only in 1827. Simultaneously, a minor cantonment was built adjoining the village of *Khadki*. The Camp grew out of the medical, health and aesthetic concerns of the Europeans majorly, apart from the military requirements of the British forces. The architecture experienced change gradually as did the mentality of the Indians who started shifting in the 'Bungalows' vacated by the British, which was a new residential form, contrary to the typical courtyard houses and *Wadas* which used to provide privacy to the women living in. Indians, especially *Parsis* soon accepted the westernized culture.

Pune Municipality got established in 1858. Starting with the 'Octroi', the Municipal finances were also based on the house tax that was soon levied. "The Municipality followed policy of 'decentralization', enacted by the Government. The fiscal powers were increased in 1861; it became a corporate body in 1870s; and the act also allowed the election of its members. Following an all India law on Local Self - Government *Pune* was able to get a more representative body" (Diddee & Gupta, 2000).

The period after 1860 is important from the growth of municipal government in a colonial context and also the growth of modern planning, colonial architecture, development of urban services and infrastructure such as urban services and infrastructure like sanitation, drinking water, health and sanitation. The book records the major buildings which were built in *Pune* as a colonial city. The *Deccan College*, *Council Hall*, *Records Office*, *Poona*

Gymkhana, Synagogue, General Post Office, St. Paul's Church, Hotels, Engineering College, Reay Market - Mandai, Fergusson College, Churches have been discussed on their characteristics. Also, areas like Bund, Koregaon Park are accounted for.

The book also enumerates the conditions prevalent in Pune that led to changes of infrastructure and related growth. After 1880, the growth outside the city had been phenomenal. There was also some urban renewal in the old core, while only one *peth* was added called the *NaviPeth*. The 'damming' of the river to form the Khadakwasla dam solved the water problems of the whole city.

Owing to the city's problems related to health and hygiene, like the spreading of epidemics, and other pressures on the city led some British Officials to conduct mortality surveys and demographic documentation of various kinds. The famine of 1876 made the people flock to the city, and they were engaged in building works and water works activities. Relief camps were arranged by importing grain from the central provinces and Gujarat. The water problems of the city eased but the water tax started being levied by the government to the dismay of the people. The modes of transport altered from the horse - driven 'tongas', 'buggies', 'palanquins' and 'palkis' to bicycles. Cars were rare and scared the horses. In 1886, the *Mandai (main market)* or was shifted to the '*Shukrawarpeth*' from the open space north of '*Shaniwarwada*'. The neo - Gothic structure of '*Mahatma Phule Mandai*' was built there named differently in those times. Thus, the shifting of a major commercial activity to more the centre of the town proved a lucrative investment for the Municipality.

In 1896, plague broke in the city and wreaked havoc for consecutive decade and a half with an yearly epidemic. Hundreds of people perished in the congested *peths* in the already strained the social infrastructure. The enactment of the Bombay Town Planning act along with the Land Acquisition Act equipped the Municipality to 'plan' the development of new areas. The indicators of such planned development were the electric streetlights, the public bus and educational infrastructure like schools that flourished alongside the other infrastructure.

There was a building - boom in all localities. The construction of a railway station in the now 'Shivajinagar' provided for the necessity of the people. Upto three storey building apartments started showing up with rapid building of bungalows and apartment blocks thereby transforming the western wards. This led to urban renewal in many *peths*. The 'BajiRao' road, 'Tilak' road, 'Sanas' *maidan (ground)*, 'Saras' *baug (garden)*, 'Hirabag', 'Nehru' stadium is a consequence of this urban renewal.

The book gives account of the industrial activity in the 1920s. The Deccan Paper mills, the Ammunition factory came from the eighteenth century along with the Poona cotton and silk manufacturing company.

As a result of the intellectual uproar, the Poona Sanskrit College started as early as 1821, however its role changed to impart western education in the 19th century. It was housed

at the 'Vishrambaug' *wada*. In 1860's the Deccan College, affiliated to the Bombay University started. Most schools and colleges were housed in the older *wadas*, with the few exceptions of the Deccan College, Fergusson college etc. There was tremendous social reform.

The book also gives a detailed account of how the politics of those times changed the use of architecture in Pune. The social reform and the slowly changing mentality of the 'middle class' to modernization has been briefed.; "By the mid - twentieth century, Pune had been transformed from a Medieval Feudal Capital to a Colonial City. It however still followed the function of being the administrative and cultural centre of Maharashtra" (Diddee & Gupta, 2000).

The authors stress upon the transformation of Pune in terms of its culture while discussing its diversity of 'Distinguished spaces'. They note the unique socio - cultural distinction within the localities, unprepared to stand the burden of an industrial city.

The authors have tried to portray Pune's journey towards being a metropolis. The partition too, impacted Pune's morphology that was facing influxes of refugees from Pakistan. Calamities added to more burden on infrastructure. The Panshet dam, burst in 1961 and the gushing waters overtopped the bridges and washed away people's homes. Vast area of the city lied inundated on either bank while the authorities were unprepared to confront this disaster. As Pune became more industrial it saw immigrant families coming here for jobs, unlike just males as in case of other cities, with larger population influx.

The first master plan of Pune in 1952 recommended eight new T. P. schemes, land zoning and land use pattern. Accordingly, land was to be allotted for areas expecting faster urbanisation. The major features of the plan were road - widening for fifteen main roads including the 'Laxmi' Road, 'Khadakwasla' water purification, river - improvement scheme, slum improvement schemes and the setting up of an Industrial Estate at Hadapsar. However even before this plan was commissioned, a new law - The Bombay Town Planning Act of 1954 was imposed, requiring the preparation of a fresh Development Plan (DP) for Pune. This process took ten years and became operative only in 1966. The DP of 1966 had two parts; first part dealing with the problems of the old city like slum improvement, decongestion, road widening etc. while the second part dealing with development - control around and beyond the old city. However, the shortage of funds and the land acquisition were challenges for the Pune Municipal corporation, leading to limited implementation of essential schemes. Further, since there was greater need for an integrated and coordinated development of the metropolitan region falling within the influence of Bombay, the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning (MRTP) Act, 1966, substituted the Bombay Town Planning Act, 1954. The Maharashtra State Government established a special area known as the Poona Metropolitan Region (PMR), 1967, and set up a Planning Authority, the Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority (PMRDA) for homogenous planning in the region.

“The Pune Metropolitan Region, included the Pune Municipal area; Pune, Khadki and Dehu Road Cantonments; the three municipal towns of Talegaon - Dabhade, Pimpri - Chinchwad and Alandi; and a hundred and twenty - seven villages - a total area of 1605 sq. km” (Diddee & Gupta, 2000).

The book details out the development of the Pimpri Chinchwad new industrial city. With a history of two small villages on the bank of Pawana River and also a small pilgrimage site of the Saint MorayaGosavi. The Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal council was upgraded to Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) in 1970. The establishments of Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), Pimpri Chinchwad New Town Development Authority (PCNTDA) and Maharashtra Housing and Development Authority (MHADA) brought about further development.

The authors describe Pimpri - Chinchwad as “neither developed as a twin city of Pune, nor an industrial satellite and having an amorphous character and inefficient”. However, the book has been written in 2000, and the present situation appears different, with Pimpri - Chinchwad showcasing a very organized development, wide roads, grade separators that have been to an extent successful in segregating direct traffic like state transport to local traffic. Some smaller areas have still been not developed and need attention.

The book further details the situation of transport in the city and traffic congestion still remains a concern. They also mention that planners give very little concern to ‘pedestrian traffic’ while planning. The authors also discuss the impact of urbanization on the peripheral villages and the loss of agricultural activities to industrialization.

The authors give an account of the modern demands of housing of the middle class and the elite. They personify the phenomenon of the fall of the *Wada - system* of housing in the city as ‘Demise of the *Wadas*’ explaining the neglect of the expanding core city. They highlight that ‘social basis’ of a *Wada*, itself began to break down changing the family structure from ‘joint’ to ‘nuclear’, triggering out - migration as well in its turn. They stress that both, the natural and manmade heritage is being lost to unsustainable development.

Pune has transformed to become a metropolis from a quiet town by coming a long way. Pune is believed to be one of the gateway cities of the millennium. In a striking statement the authors mention that “It is poised on the borderline: a traditional small city metamorphosing into cosmopolitan urbanism. It is important that it carefully ‘chooses’ its traditions and wishes to ‘embrace’ the ‘new’” (Diddee & Gupta, 2000).

2. Data Sets Used and Methodology Adopted

The authors of the book have incorporated the inputs, they received through discussions with Dr. K. R. Dikshit, Dr. Jutta Dikshit along with live explorations that they were involved in. Dr. M. S. Mate has helped the book with his

knowledge of architectural history, and particularly about Pune.

Explanations and information have come to the authors through discussions with Dr. A. R. Kulkarni, Prof. Emeritus, Dept. of History, and University of Pune. Renowned architect and conversationalist Ar. Kiran Kalamdani helped with maps and photographs, Dhanesh Khalal, Avinash Sohoni, Nandu and Gauri Dange have been the pillars behind the facts and figures of Pune’s morphology.

The authors sought data and selective materials from Alpaiwala Meuseum (Mumbai), Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum Pune, Bharat Itihas Samshodhak Mandal Pune, Lokmanya Tilak Sangrahalaya, Peshwa Museum, British Library, Yale centre for British art and Houghton Library Harvard.

The research methodology adopted by the authors included discussions and secondary data collection from museums and authorities.

Data Sets Used:

- 1) Map showing Pune in /western Maharashtra and the four physical divisions of Konkan Coastal Plain, Sahyadri/Western Ghats escarpment, Maval or the hilly transitional zone between the Western Ghats and the Plateau, Desh or the Deccan Plateau region.
- 2) Maps (two) showing the early peths and natural storm water drains of Pune in the early 17th century.
- 3) Map showing Shahaji’sJahagir between Mughal Empire and Bijapur Territory - (Source: Unpublished Ph. D. Thesis (1966), Poona University)
- 4) Map showing a Surveyed layout of Kasba Peth in 1997, with its community and traditional occupation.
- 5) Map showing spatial spread of the Maratha Empire in 1758. (Source: after D. M. Wagh: “Geographical Factors in the rise and fall of the Marathas”)
- 6) Conjectural Ground Floor Plan of Shaniwar Wada.
- 7) Map depicting the growth of Pune’s Peths founded from 1300 A. D. to 1789 A. D. (Source: Centre for Development studies and activities Pune)
- 8) Map showing Pune during the Peshwas (1818), showing important landmarks, wells and aqueducts.
- 9) Basic typical floor layout of a Wada.
- 10) Map Showing Peshwa’s Mansions and Government Departments (Source: After Meera Kosambi)
- 11) Conjectural Map of the Old AmbilOdha on the Background of Pune (Source: After AvinashSohoni)
- 12) Non - surveyed drawing of old city of 1808. (Map redrawn from original French manuscript for Govenor Hornby of Bombay (1771 - 1784), to get an idea of the city layout around the time of Anglo - Maratha War)
- 13) Map showing Peths and highlighting the open spaces due to courtyard planning of the Wadas. (Source: Poona city survey, 1876.)
- 14) The Map showing the layout of the Battle of Kirkee. (Source: J. M. Campbell, Gazetteer of Bombay Presidency, Vol. XVIII, Part III, Pune District, 1885.)
- 15) Map showing the Flight of the Peshwa after defeat at the Battle of Kirkee. (Source: after D. M. Wagh: “Geographical Factors in the rise and fall of the Marathas)

- 16) Map showing the Poona Cantonment, Three functional zones - Commercial, Military, and Bungalow area, and Layouts of Sadar Bazaar and Barracks and Civil Lines in the Ghorpadi areas. (After Meera Kosambi)
- 17) Map of Poona and Kirkee Cantonments with city of Poona. (Source: Gazetteers of Bombay Presidency, Poona Vol. XVIII Part III, 1885.)
- 18) Map showing the Poona Cantonment, Suburban Municipality and the City Wards. (Source: D. R. Gadgil Poona - A socio Economic Survey, 1952, GIPE Vol. No.25, Pune, Part II)
- 19) Map showing the Educational and Research Institutions, Pune 1950
- 20) Map showing the flood affected area of Pune in 1961, after the Panshet Dam burst. (Source: After Bramhe, Sulabha and Gole: Deluge in Poona, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, 1967.)
- 21) Map of location of slums in Pune with dates of origin. (Source: PMC)
- 22) Map showing growth of Pune over the last three and a Half Centuries.
- 23) Map of area within Pune Municipal Corporation including extended limits. (Source: After Pune Tourist Mp, MTDC)
- 24) Map of Pimpri - Chinchwad, Area under different Authorities. (Source: P. C. M. C.)
- 25) Places of tourist interest in Pune city. (Source: After Kiran Kalamdani)

3. Conclusive Summary

The book is a well - researched discourse, decked with rare pictures, illustrative maps and sketches, compiled in easily readable style. The authors have expansively documented the growth of Pune over the last three and a half centuries. Beginning from olden days, the authors chronologically trace the prominent eras and key events in Pune's history. The book informs the readers about the altering geographical, spatial, architectural, military, economical, industrial, organizational, academic, governmental, cultural and demographical transformations of Pune, from a medieval town of native origin to the disordered metropolis of today.

The incarnation of Pune, the "Peths", their origin and expansion, are covered in detail. Pune's military inheritance and past, its combats and trials and tribulations, are very well explained with the help of authentic maps and photographs. The architecture of the *wadas*, the temples, and the planning and organization of the peths in the heart of the city along with the process of their evolution are elaborated upon, to give the readers a thorough understanding of the city's rich heritage.

The book also makes its readers ponder upon the the present situation into which the urban character of the city has moulded. It has become clear that the urban systems get are set to get burdened during crises with an evident shortfall of resources and infrastructure of the city against the growing demands of the inhabitants. Nevertheless, the city has had influxes of various kinds of migrant population all throughout history, leading to additional need to address this shortfall. There is an evident need to analyse the migration

characteristics and contributions towards the city and their pressure on basic infrastructure. Another striking outcome is that, owing to haphazard administrative interventions and insufficient maintenance, the city has 'turned its back' to the river, which was the original nucleus of the settlement of Pune. This situation is bothersome from the point of view of Natural Resource 'degradation and neglect' and water resource mismanagement, besides impacting the intangible notion of the river being the 'Mother' of the city's culture, tradition and natural heritage. The reasons for such situation need to be analysed and the possibilities to improve this situation need to be studied. The book also brings to the fore that there is fragmentation of the Manufacturing sector with 'the proportion of proposed plans being executed' as the indicator of measure, within the Pune Metropolitan Region (PMR). It can be inferred that deficient governance is the weak link in this situation. There is a cited need to provide institutional framework for the efficient administration of the urban agglomeration of Pune, to help the 'Sustainable Behaviour' of the Urbane. The role of the Pune Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (PMRDA) needs to be suitably evaluated by its stakeholders in this respect.

In conclusion, the book 'Pune: Queen of the Deccan' provides a comprehensive exploration of Pune's urban history and transformation. This review has analysed the key points covered in the book, contributing to the understanding of Pune's development. The book is a valuable resource for those interested in urban studies, history, and regional development.

References

- [1] Diddee, J., & Gupta, S. (2000). *Pune: Queen of the Deccan*. Pune: Elephant Design Pvt. Ltd.